

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 SS-20 NSC-10 DOTE-00

SCEM-02 INT-08 SCI-06 DRC-01 OC-06 CCO-00 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 SIL-01 LAB-06 /140 W
----- 074345

P R 080910Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1111

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

US MISSION OECD PARIS 1563

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 4358

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ENRG ETRN SW

SUBJ: SAS EXPECTED TO MAKE FURTHER CUTBACKS

REF: STOCKHOLM 4191

1. CITING DIRECTOR KNUT HAGERUP OF SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES SYSTEM (SAS), STOCKHOLM DAILY DAGENS NYHETER REPORTED DECEMBER 7 THAT SAS HAS DECIDED TO CUT BACK ITS TRAFFIC SCHEDULE BY ANOTHER 15 PERCENT, BRINGING TOTAL REDUCTION TO 25 PERCENT SINCE BEGINNING OF OIL CRISIS ABOUT A MONTH AGO. SAS HAS ALSO INTRODUCED FREEZE ON NEW EMPLOYMENT, AND WILL PROBABLY SHELVE EARLIER PLANS TO EMPLOY ANOTHER 50 PILOTS AND 200 AIR HOSTESSES FOR COMING SUMMER SEASON.

2. CUTS REPORTEDLY WILL BE MADE IN STAGES, MOST OF THEM TO BE INITIATED DURING JANUARY 1974. DURING PEAK SUMMER AND CHRISTMAS SEASONS, HOWEVER, TRAFFIC CUTBACK WILL NOT BE QUITE SO HEAVY. SAS HAS NOT YET DEFINITELY DECIDED WHAT ROUTES ARE TO BE AFFECTED, BUT IT HAS BEEN INDICATED THAT IT WILL PRIMARILY BE THOSE WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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THE LOWEST PASSENGER FREQUENCY. INFORMATION ON WHAT FLIGHTS

ARE TO BE CUT BACK WILL REPORTEDLY BECOME
AVAILABLE SOME TIME NEXT WEEK.

3. ACCORDING TO DIRECTOR HAGERUP, MEASURE HAS BEEN PROMPTED BY
ANTICIPATION OF REDUCED FUEL DELIVERIES TO AIRLINE DURING 1974
AND BY INCREASED COST OF FUEL. SAS IS SAID TO HAVE REACHED ITS
DECISION FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS EARLIER THIS WEEK WITH VARIOUS
SWEDISH MINISTRIES AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

4. HAGERUP ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT PASSENGERS MAY NOW NOT
ALWAYS COUNT ON DEPARTING AT EXACTLY SCHEDULED TIME BECAUSE OF
NECESSITY TO FILL ALL AIRCRAFT. MOREOVER, THERE COULD BE SOME
DELAY DUE TO DESIRE TO COORDINATE FLIGHTS WITH AIRCRAFT OPERATING
ON OTHER ROUTES. HAGERUP SAID IT MAY BECOME NECESSARY TO RESORT
TO EVEN MORE DRASTIC MEASURES TO SAVE FUEL; HE MENTIONED SPECI-
FICALLY POSSIBILITY OF CANCELLING ALL FLIGHTS ON SATURDAYS AND/
OR SUNDAYS (NORMALLY QUITE DAYS), AND ELIMINATING FIRST CLASS
ON SHORTER ROUTES TO ENABLE PLANES TO CARRY MORE PASSENGERS.

5. COMMENT: IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUERY, SAS PUBLIC RELATIONS
DIRECTOR IN STOCKHOLM WOULD SAY ONLY THAT SAS "MAY" MAKE RE-
DUCTIONS REPORTED IN NEWSPAPER ARTICLE FOR PERIOD JANUARY 7
TO END OF MARCH. MATTER, HE CLAIMED, REMAINS UNDER CONSIDERATION
AND ADDED THAT PRESS CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 10
AND THAT NEW SCHEDULES WILL BE ISSUED SOME TIME NEXT WEEK. HE
SAID THAT ANY REDUCTIONS MADE ARE LIKELY TO BE MAINLY OF DOMESTIC
FLIGHTS IN SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES. HE EXPLAINED REDUCTION
PERCENTAGES ARE MEASURED IN TERMS OF KILOMETERS FLOWN AND
THAT SAS HAS ALREADY REDUCED KILOMETERS FLOWN 10-12
PERCENT AS RESULT OF FACT THAT ITS FUEL AVAILABILITIES WORLDWIDE
ARE NOW DOWN 20 PERCENT FROM NORMAL. EMBASSY CONCLUDES THAT
DAGENS NYHETER ARTICLE IS THEREFORE ESSENTIALLY CORRECT.
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